

2009 Arbor Day Poster Contest

The Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division is sponsoring the seventeenth annual Arbor Day Poster Contest for all state 5th graders. The contest is part of a national competition sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation and is the culmination of Arbor Day lesson plans that are provided to each 5th grade teacher. Over 1,700 students participated in the 2008 contest.

The artwork must be original and signed by the artist. It may be done in marker, crayon, watercolor, ink, acrylic, or tempera paint. Bright colors make the best poster! No computer generated art or glued collages are allowed. It must be no larger than 14” x 18” and no smaller than 8½” x 11”. The theme must be on the poster, spelled correctly and easy to read. The artwork must be original and signed by the artist. Wisconsin recommends that students sign their artwork one inch above any border.

Only one poster may be submitted per school, so a school contest is necessary. Judging guidelines are included in the lesson plans and contest rules.

*The 2009 theme is  
“Trees are Terrific . . . in Cities and Towns!”*

Awards are given to the top three posters in the state and the first place poster will be forwarded to the national competition. Wisconsin’s first, second, and third place winners will be presented with plaques and savings bonds of \$100, \$75, and \$50, respectively, and their teachers will receive scholarships for professional development – a Learning, Experiences & Activities in Forestry (LEAF) clinic and a Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshop. Teachers will also be honored with books at an award ceremony in Madison in spring 2009. The Wisconsin Arborist Association donates the student awards. LEAF, Wisconsin’s K-12 Forestry Education Program, and the Wisconsin Department of

Natural Resources’ Project Learning Tree program will each provide the scholarships. The three student winners will also receive a landscape tree to be planted at their school or in their community, donated by the Wisconsin Nursery Association. The top 12 posters will be featured in the DNR’s 2010 Arbor Day-Earth Day calendar and will appear on the Environmental Education for Kids website, EEK!

Fifth grade public and private school teachers were contacted about this contest in October 2008.

**Entries must be postmarked by February 17, 2009.**

**For more information or additional contest packets contact: Arbor Day Poster Contest, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 or e-mail jacinda.tessmann@wisconsin.gov.**

20th Annual Forest Appreciation Week Writing Contest

*My Favorite Tree*

Each year the Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division encourages fourth grade students across Wisconsin to think and write about our tree and forest resources through the Forest Appreciation Week Writing Contest. This year’s theme, **My Favorite Tree**, asks students to write about a tree that they think is special. Regardless of shape, size, or color, trees have the ability to trigger our imaginations and create fond memories. Students are encouraged to write about a tree species that they find to be unique or a forest tree with which they have had an extraordinary experience.

- Contest Requirements:**
- Fourth grade students only.
  - Submit only one (1) entry per classroom.

- Any written form, including essay, poetry, or other type of creative writing is acceptable. The entry must be 200 words or less and follow the theme, **My Favorite Tree**.
- Writing must be the original work of a student currently in fourth grade.
- A participant report form must be attached to your classroom entry. Your classroom entry must be sent to the judging team coordinator listed in the 2009 writing contest packet.
- Note: Contest packets will be mailed to fourth grade teachers in late January.**
- A semi-finalist will be chosen from each CESA District and their essays will appear in the 2010 Arbor Day-Earth Day Calendar and on the WDNR children’s website Environmental Education for Kids, *EEK!*
- A panel of judges from the Department of Natural Resources will review the 12 semi-finalists and select the top three state winners. The three state winners and their teachers will be recognized for their achievement at a special celebration in our State Capitol. The first, second, and third place students will be presented with savings bonds of \$100, \$75, and \$50, respectively. The Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association donates these awards. The students will also receive a landscape tree to be planted at their school or in their community, donated by the Wisconsin Nursery Association, and their teachers will receive scholarships for professional development – a Learning, Experiences & Activities in Forestry (LEAF) clinic and a Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshop, plus additional classroom supplies.

**Entries must be postmarked by March 6, 2009.**

**For more information contact: Forest Appreciation Week Writing Contest, Wisconsin DNR Forestry Division, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921 or e-mail genny.fannucchi@wisconsin.gov.**

Arbor Day Free Tree Program for Fourth Graders

Arbor Day has been an American tradition since 1872. A pioneer and journalist, J. Sterling Morton, introduced a resolution in Nebraska creating Arbor Day as a day “especially set apart and consecrated for tree planting.” Arbor Day has been celebrated in Wisconsin since 1883 and always falls on the last Friday in April.

To encourage the recognition of Arbor Day the Wisconsin Legislature in 1979 passed a law directing the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ state nurseries to provide a free seedling to each fourth grade student in Wisconsin. Each year the state nurseries distribute nearly 80,000 seedlings to fourth grade pupils in Wisconsin for the celebration of Arbor Day.

In early November, a letter is sent to each public and private elementary school explaining how to order the trees. Orders are only accepted from schools, not individuals, and only one order per school or school district.

Arbor Day offers the unique opportunity to educate students on the value and care of trees and forests. Planting trees enhances Wisconsin’s natural beauty, provides wildlife habitat, prevents soil erosion, improves air quality, provides shade and conserves valuable energy. As the student’s tree grows, their knowledge of and respect for the forest environment grows as well.

**For additional information on Wisconsin’s Arbor Day Free Tree Program, contact the Griffith State Nursery, 473 Griffith Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494, telephone (715) 424-3700.**



Students, teachers and dignitaries celebrate Arbor Day at the 2008 Special Achievement Ceremony at the State Capitol. First Row (L to R): First Place Writing, Micaela Jobke, St. Martin Lutheran School; Third Place Poster, Hannah Glinski, St. Monica School; Second Place Writing, Josie Bacon, MHLT School; Third Place Writing, Skyler Fisher, Hillsboro Elementary; Second Place Poster, Isabella Reichardt, Webster Elementary; First Place Poster, Nathan Schwartz, Homeschool

Second Row (L to R): DNR Secretary Matt Frank; Kathy Swingen, Wisconsin Nursery Association; Merlin Becker, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association; Janet Hutchens, Project Learning Tree; Principal Jerry Jiter of St. Martin Lutheran School; Judy DiMattina of MHLT School; Jenny Shore of Hillsboro Elementary; Laura Schwartz, Homeschool Instructor; Sarah Gilbert, LEAF; Noelle Burns of Webster Elementary; Chief State Forester Paul DeLong, DNR; Josh DePouw, Wisconsin Arborists Association



Students, teachers, sponsors and family celebrating achievement. First Row (L to R): First Place Poster, Nathan Schwartz, Homeschool; Third Place Writing, Skyler Fisher, Hillsboro Elementary; Third Place Poster, Hannah Glinski, St. Monica School; Second Place Writing, Josie Bacon, MHLT School; Second Place Poster, Isabella Reichardt, Webster Elementary; First Place Writing, Micaela Jobke, St. Martin Lutheran School; Janet Hutchens, Project Learning Tree; Chief State Forester Paul DeLong, DNR

Second Row (L to R): Laura Schwartz, Homeschool Instructor; Josh DePouw, Wisconsin Arborists Association; Jenny Shore of Hillsboro Elementary; Judy DiMattina of MHLT School; Kathy Swingen, Wisconsin Nursery Association; Noelle Burns of Webster Elementary; Merlin Becker, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association; Principal Jerry Jiter of St. Martin Lutheran School; Jeremy Solin, LEAF



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Many thanks to all the Wisconsin students and teachers that participated in our statewide Arbor Day contests and the following WDNR staff and colleagues for their contributions to the design and editing of the calendar and project support: Genny Fannucchi, Forest Resource Education and Awareness Specialist; Tessa Jilot, Forestry Educator; Richard Rideout, Urban Forestry Coordinator; Jacinda Tessmann, Forestry Outreach Specialist; Bryn Scriver, Invasive Species Specialist; Bernie Williams, Forestry Communications Specialist.